

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Michael C. Stewart et al.

APPLICATION NO.: 10/602,490

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TITLE: Apparatus and Method for Integrated Vessel Ligator and Transector

EXAMINER: Vi X. Nguyen

GROUP ART UNIT: 3734

ATTY. DKT. NO.: 26448-07311

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC (EFS-WEB) TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)(i)(C) from the Pacific Time Zone of the United States on the local date shown below.

Dated: 12/8/08 _____

By: _____ /Albert C. Smith/
Albert C. Smith, Reg. No. 20,355

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
Under 37 CFR §§ 1.56 and 1.97-98**

SIR:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR §§ 1.56 and 1.97-98, enclosed herewith is modified form PTO/SB/08A listing references for consideration by the Examiner.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation regarding the completeness of the list of references, or that inclusion of a reference in this list is an admission that it is prior art or is pertinent to this application, or that a search has been made, or as an admission that the information listed is, or may be considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists, and shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

- within three months of the filing date of the application, or date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits, whichever event last occurred;
- before the mailing of a first official action after the filing of a request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR § 1.114;

- after three months of the filing date of this national application or the date of entry of the national stage in an international application, or after the mailing date of the first official action on the merits, whichever event last occurred, but before the mailing date of the first to occur of either: (1) a final action under 37 CFR §1.113; or (2) an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and:
 - attached hereto is the fee set forth under 37 CFR §1.17(p) for submission of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR. § 1.97(c); OR
 - Applicant certifies pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(e) that:
 - each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement; OR
 - no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Statement was known to any individual designated under 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement;
 - on or before the payment of the issue fee but after the mailing date of the first to occur of either: (1) a final action under 37 CFR § 1.113; (2) a notice of allowance under 37 CFR § 1.311; or (3) an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and:
 - Applicant certifies pursuant to 37 CFR. § 1.97(e) that:
 - each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement;
 - no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application

and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Statement was known to any individual designated under 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement; AND

- attached hereto is the fee set forth under 37 CFR §1.17(p) for submission of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR. § 1.97(d); OR
- after the payment of the issue fee. Applicant requests that the information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement be placed in the file according to 37 CFR § 1.97(i), although the information may not be considered by the USPTO.
- This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior application No. _____, filed on _____, and the references cited therein are hereby referenced, but are not required to be provided in this application under 37 CFR § 1.98(d).
- Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR § 1.704(d).

Respectfully submitted,
MICHAEL C. STEWART ET AL.

Dated: 12/8/08

By: /Albert C. Smith/
Albert C. Smith, Reg. No.: 20,355
Fenwick & West LLP
Silicon Valley Center
801 California Street
Mountain View, CA 94041
Tel.: (650) 335-7296
Fax.: (650) 938-5200